

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 72

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 118

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 72—Relative to American Stroke Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 21, 2015.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 72, Gipson. American Stroke Month.

This measure would declare May 2015 to be American Stroke Month in California, and would urge all Californians to familiarize themselves with the risk factors associated with stroke, to recognize the warning signs and symptoms of stroke, and, at the first signs of a stroke, to dial 9-1-1 immediately in order to begin to reduce the devastating effects of strokes on our population.

WHEREAS, Stroke is a leading cause of serious long-term disability and the fifth leading cause of death in the United States, killing approximately 130,000 people nationwide and over 13,500 citizens of California each year; and

WHEREAS, Between 2012 and 2030, total annual direct stroke-related medical costs are expected to increase from \$71.55 billion to \$184.13 billion, and overall, total annual costs of stroke are projected to increase to \$240.67 billion by 2030, an increase of 129 percent; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 80 million Americans have high blood pressure, a major controllable risk factor for stroke, including 44 percent of African American adults, which is among the highest prevalence of any population in the world; and

WHEREAS, More than one-half, or 58 percent, of Americans do not know if they are at risk for stroke; and

WHEREAS, One in three Americans cannot recall any stroke warning signs or symptoms; and

WHEREAS, The F.A.S.T. warning signs and symptoms of stroke include face drooping, arm weakness, speech difficulty and time to call 9-1-1. Beyond F.A.S.T., additional stroke warning signs and symptoms include sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body, sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding, sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes, sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination, and sudden severe headache with no known cause; and

WHEREAS, On the American Stroke Month Day of Action May 1, 2015, throughout May and year-round, the American Stroke Association's "Together to End Stroke" initiative encourages Americans to learn their

personal stroke risk, memorize and share the stroke warning signs, and call 9-1-1 at the first sign of a stroke; and

WHEREAS, New and effective treatments have been developed to treat and minimize the severity and damaging effects of strokes, but much more research is needed; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature declares May 2015 to be American Stroke Month in California; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges all Californians to familiarize themselves with the risk factors associated with stroke, to recognize the warning signs and symptoms of stroke, and, at the first signs of a stroke, to dial 9-1-1 immediately in order to begin to reduce the devastating effects of strokes on our population; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author and to the Secretary of the Senate for appropriate distribution.